

Beliefs continuum

Purpose

An embodied technique enabling individuals to express the degree to which they agree or disagree with a statement.

Process

- Display two signs, 'Agree' and 'Disagree', at the extremities of a line created in the room.
- Read a statement to the group and ask the participants to stand in a position along the line which reflects the degree to which they agree or disagree with the statement. They can create depth in the line if a desired position is occupied.
- Ask participants to discuss with the person or small group nearest them the reasons they have chosen their positions. Allow a few minutes for the discussion to take place.
- Ask for volunteers to summarise the discussion at the 'Agree' end, the 'Middle' and the 'Disagree' end of the continuum for the whole group to hear.
- Read a second statement and ask participants to adjust their positions in response to the statement and to discuss with those closest to them the reasons they have chosen their position.
- Ask those who have moved positions to explain the reasons for their movement.

Product

The beliefs continuum creates a human spectrum of opinion along a line from 'Agree' to 'Disagree'. It allows individuals the opportunity to position themselves in a non-threatening way and in a manner which best reflects their beliefs. The discussions enable them to justify their position with like-minded individuals and to hear a wide range of opinions from the entire spectrum.

PrimaryConnections examples

- Students learn best when working cooperatively rather than individually or competitively.
- Students learn best when they are able to explore a concept before explanation is given.
- Students often have fixed ideas about science concepts.
- The main purpose of assessment is to provide accurate reports to parents.

